

Who's involved?

- 5 Founding partners: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), World Trade Organization (WTO)
- 11 Donors (2016): European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Chinese Taipei and the United States
- Developing Country Experts
- Other organizations: CABI, IICA, ITC, OECD, OIRSA, UNCTAD, UNIDO among others
- Project partners: public and private sector, including developing country governments, regional and international organizations, NGOs and universities

The STDF: 10+ years of delivering results

Launched in 2003 with just over US\$500,000 in seed-funding from the World Bank and WTO, the STDF has come a long way.

"The STDF answers an essential need. When I visit developing countries business people often tell me about the difficulties they face in meeting required standards. By helping developing countries to improve their food safety, animal and plant health capacity, the STDF supports them to overcome these problems and gain market access. In this way the STDF partnership has accomplished a great deal. It has delivered 140 projects to help developing countries improve their SPS capacity and enhance trade in food and agricultural products. It has provided significant support to the most vulnerable, as 50% of project resources are dedicated to LDCs. And it promotes the exchange of information and good practice in SPS capacity building."

Roberto Azevêdo, WTO Director-General

Join STDF's network

- Share SPS results with the STDF Working Group
- Access SPS information and tools on the STDF website
- Browse good practice in the SPS Virtual Library
- Sign up for the latest STDF news
- Explore options to mobilize STDF funding

A global partnership to facilitate safe trade



Trade in food and agricultural products offers a way for farmers, processors and traders in developing countries to increase their incomes and boost economic development. But despite the potential, they face many challenges. Limited capacity to meet food safety, animal and plant health requirements is often one of the major obstacles.

International and regional organizations and donors are supporting developing country governments and the private sector to tackle sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) capacity gaps. The STDF provides a platform for organizations to come together to discuss SPS capacity building needs, share experiences and good practice, leverage additional funding, and work on coordinated and coherent solutions.

STDF's Vision: Sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, food security and environmental protection in developing countries
Supporting Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 14, 15 and 17

STDF's Goal: Increased capacity of developing countries to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards, guidelines and recommendations and hence ability to gain and maintain market access



STDF's unique role

Global coordination and knowledge hub: The STDF's global network brings together leading trade, health and agriculture experts worldwide to address persistent and emerging SPS challenges, and drive forward joined-up solutions. It acts as a knowledge hub, sharing available know-how, tools and good practice to build on what exists. At the same time, the STDF creates synergies with related initiatives, and promotes innovative and cross-cutting approaches to SPS capacity building.

Developing and delivering SPS projects: To kick-start new ways of building knowledge and capacity on SPS requirements, the STDF provides funding to both develop and deliver innovative, cross-cutting projects. STDF projects help public and private sector stakeholders in developing countries improve food safety, animal and plant health to facilitate safe trade. Projects often work as catalysts, bringing on board diverse partners and funding to support longer-term impact.





Recent STDF work areas:

- Trade facilitation in an SPS context
- Prioritizing SPS investments for market access
- Invasive alien species and international trade
- Public-private partnerships to support SPS capacity building
- SPS capacity evaluation tools

Recent STDF products:

- “Safe trade solutions” film
- “Cocoa: a sweet value chain” film
- User Guide on Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access (P-IMA)
- STDF Briefings on topics including “Facilitating Safe Trade”, “Enhancing SPS Capacity to Promote Trade for Development in Least Developed Countries”, “Women in STDF projects”, and “Private sector in STDF projects”

STDF projects: Results highlights from Africa, Asia and Latin America

Stronger phytosanitary controls help Uganda’s flower exports to grow

The flower industry and government came together in Uganda, with support from the STDF, to build capacity to meet international phytosanitary standards and EU requirements. Thanks to the project, there was a clear reduction in interceptions due to plant pests, which meant flower exports to the EU could continue. Thousands of people – including the majority women workers – who depend on the flower industry for their living benefitted. The Department of Crop Protection and the flower industry signed a new public-private partnership to sustain their collaboration to increase flower production and exports.

Boosting safe fruit and vegetable exports from Thailand and Viet Nam

In Thailand and Viet Nam, STDF’s project to improve food safety management led to reduced rejections of fruits and vegetables, increased sales and better access to domestic and export markets. An independent evaluation found the project had a “significant and lasting impact on enhancing management of food safety risks within fruit and vegetable chains.” Local farmer cooperatives, fruit and vegetable exporters and retailers all benefitted. Training modules form part of government extension services, private sector and local university programmes, sustaining the results and reaching more farmers, processors and exporters.

Greater feed and food security in Latin America to facilitate trade

Food safety and veterinary authorities have joined forces with the private sector across 10 countries in Latin America in an ongoing STDF project to improve animal feed and food safety and, at the same time, facilitate trade. Run by the Latin American and Caribbean Feed Industry Association (FeedLatina), with support from the FAO, OIE and IICA, the project is based on a strong public-private partnership. One of the main objectives is to address challenges linked to different and sometimes conflicting SPS regulations in the region, to make trade easier and reduce costs. To date, the project has mobilized substantial additional resources, and options to roll-out the approach in other regions are being explored.

Delivering impact

- STDF is a leading voice on SPS capacity building in global fora, including through its highly-rated Working Group, held bi-annually.
- STDF has delivered 76 Aid-for-Trade projects to help developing countries build their knowledge and capability on SPS measures, promote safe trade in food and agriculture and raise the incomes of small-scale producers. Nearly two-thirds of projects have benefitted Least Developed Countries and low-income countries.
- STDF has a strong results management framework in place. An independent Mid-Term Review found that “results are impressive and testament to the effective operation of the STDF;” the coordination role has a “significant value added,” and the projects are “highly relevant to needs of beneficiaries and to the policies of partners and donors.” Donors found that STDF “allowed them to extend the range of their technical assistance programs on SPS issues at a fraction of the cost than if they were to do it themselves.”

From 2004-2015:

- 17 donors provided nearly US\$50 million to the STDF
- 75 projects were approved for STDF funding

- 74 Project Preparation Grants (PPGs) were approved for STDF funding
- 64% of STDF project and PPG funds benefitted LDCs and other low-income countries